



Department of Justice

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District of North Dakota

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Three Defendants Sentenced in Multi-State Crack Cocaine Enterprise

FARGO - United States Attorney Timothy Q. Purdon announced that on August 30, 2010, **Ferris Lavelle Lee, a/k/a Vito**, from the Chicago area, was sentenced before United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Erickson for his involvement as the leader in a crack cocaine drug conspiracy. Judge Erickson sentenced Lee to 45 years in prison to be followed by five years of supervised release. Lee was ordered to pay a \$1300 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

Lee, 26, was found guilty by a 12-person jury on May 28, 2010, on one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribute controlled substances, 11 counts of distribution of a controlled substance and aiding and abetting, and one count of continuing criminal enterprise. The incidents occurred from January 2008 through February 2009 in the District of North Dakota.

Two other co-defendants were also sentenced on August 30, 2010. **Marcus Jermaine Royston, a/k/a BD**, from Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, and **Maurice M. Forest**, from the Chicago area, were each found guilty by a 12-person jury on May 28, 2010, of one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribute controlled

substances and one count of distribution of a controlled substance and aiding and abetting

Royston, 29, was sentenced to life in prison to be followed by five years of supervised release. Royston was ordered to pay a \$200 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

Forest, 36, was sentenced to ten years in prison to be followed by five years of supervised release. Forest was ordered to pay a \$200 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

The defendants were part of a criminal enterprise that distributed powder cocaine and cocaine base (crack) in Sioux Falls, SD, Fargo and Bismarck, ND.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Internal Revenue Service, U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE-Homeland Security Investigations, U. S. Marshals Service, Metro Area Narcotics Task Force, North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Becker and Clay County Sheriff's Departments, and the Fargo, West Fargo, and Moorhead, MN, Police Departments.

Assistant United States Attorney Chris Myers prosecuted the case.

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